

REMARKS


Claim 7 is amended to provide some additional clarity and to require the rectangular downcomer to be a truncated downcomer and to require it to share two boundaries with the bubble area instead of one. Support for the truncated downcomer limitation is found in the specification at page 5, line 31 through page 6, lines 18 and claim 8. The two boundary limitation was the subject of the §116 amendment that was not entered by the Examiner prior to the appeal.

New claims 11-15 correspond to claims 2-6 but depend either directly or indirectly from claim 7. New claims 16-17 correspond to claims 9-10 but with a change in their dependencies.

Due to the new limitations introduced into independent claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that such claims and the claims dependent therefrom are now allowable. Early allowance of claims 7-17 is therefore hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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